

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/040,381

Examiner

John T. Haran

Applicant(s)

YASHIMA ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the election filed on 11/24/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 7-20.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 09 January 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____ |
| 3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No. _____ | 7 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with William Lyddane on 1/21/04.
3. The application has been amended as follows:

In The Claims:

Cancel non-elected claims 1-6.

Information Disclosure Statement

4. The information disclosure statement filed 4/5/02 did not list the references on the correct form, but they have been considered and are listed on the attached 892 Form.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 7-20 are allowed.
6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record fails to suggest the claimed apparatus for waterproofing a wire harness. In particular for claim 7, there is no suggestion a controller that controls the operation of the rotation mechanism so that it alters a pressing position of the

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waterproofing portion by rotating said clamping mechanism relative to the waterproofing portion. In particular for claim 14, there is no suggestion of a rotation mechanism configured to rotate a clamping mechanism about the axis of a waterproofing portion so that the clamping mechanism presses the bundle in a second radial direction thereof.

Saito et al (U.S. Patent 5,846,467) teaches applying a sealant between wires in a wire harness wherein the wire harness is held by a clamp and the clamp is rotated while holding the wire harness so the clamp is not rotated relative to the wire harness since the wire harness is also rotated and the clamp does not press the wire harness in a second radial direction (See Figures 2-4). There is no suggestion that the wire harness jig has the capability of controlling the operation of the rotation mechanism so that it alters a pressing position of the waterproofing portion by rotating said clamping mechanism relative to the waterproofing portion or rotating the clamping mechanism about the axis of a waterproofing portion so that the clamping mechanism presses the bundle in a second radial direction thereof.

Mizutani (U.S. Patent 6,463,849) teaches a wire bundling apparatus that has a clamping mechanism and a rotation mechanism (see Figures) but there is no suggestion that the apparatus has the capability of ~~of capability~~ controlling the operation of the rotation mechanism so that it alters a pressing position of the waterproofing portion by rotating said clamping mechanism relative to the waterproofing portion or rotating the clamping mechanism about the axis of a waterproofing portion so that the clamping mechanism presses the bundle in a second radial direction thereof.

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Kortenbach et al (U.S. Patent 6,302,980) teaches a method of waterproofing a section of a wire harness wherein the wire harness is held by a clamping mechanism (See Figures 14, 14a, and 15), however there is no suggestion of a rotation mechanism that rotates the clamping mechanism relative to the axis of the wire harness so that the clamping mechanism can press the wire harness in a second radial position.

More et al (U.S. Patent 5,035,766) teaches a method and apparatus for waterproofing a wire harness by applying sealant to a portion of the wires, wrapping a sheet around the area and pressing the area with die plates to spread the sealant to fill all gaps between the wires. There is no suggestion of using a rotating clamping mechanism to provide the pressure.

7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **John T. Haran** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-1217**. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th (8 - 5) and alternate Fridays.

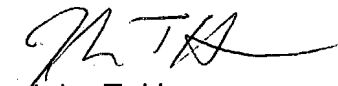
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Crispino can be reached on (571) 272-1226. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.


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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.


John T. Haran


JEFF H. ATERCUZ
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1300